



WASHINGTON
COURTS

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETERS

Administrative Office of the Courts

Court Interpreter Program

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Thank you for your interest in becoming a certified court interpreter. The Administrative Office of the Courts certifies language interpreters in nine languages: **Arabic, Cantonese, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.**

To become certified, an individual must pass both a written and oral exam.

Written Exam: The written exam was developed by the National Center for State Courts Consortium on State Court Interpreting. Candidates for all languages take the exam at the same time. This proficiency exam includes English language, vocabulary, court related terms, ethics, and translation passages. You must pass the written exam with a score of 80% or better. If you wish to be notified when the next written exam is scheduled, please complete and return the **Written Exam Notification** form to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Oral Exam: The oral exam was developed by the National Center for State Courts Consortium on State Court Interpreting, who also coordinates rating. The exam consists of three sections: sight translation, consecutive interpreting, and simultaneous interpreting. The exam is recorded via audio tape and is scored by language professionals recruited nationally. You must pass the oral exam with a score of 70% or better in all three sections.

Certification Requirements: Candidates who pass both exams must complete the following before receiving accreditation as a certified court interpreter: 1) attend a mandatory class on the Introduction to Court Interpreting, 2) submit to a criminal background check, 3) execute the Oath of Interpreter, and 4) obtain interpreter ID badge for court proceedings.

Compliance Requirements: Certified court interpreters must complete 16 hours of continuing education, two of which must be at an AOC approved ethics workshop, and verify at least 20 hours of court interpreting for each two-year compliance period.

Employment: Court interpreters are hired individually by each superior, district, and municipal court. There are varying numbers of certified court interpreters in different areas of the state, so explore employment opportunities by contacting your local courts before you decide whether to take the exam. Contact information for certified court interpreters is placed on the courts website at www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/courtinterpreters.

Study Recommendations: Familiarize yourself with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 2.43, Washington Court Evidence Rule (ER) 604, General Rule (GR) 11.2, Code of Conduct for Court Interpreters, comments on the Code of Conduct, methods for developing vocabulary, and introductory court interpreting techniques. Check with your library to see if they have a bilingual legal dictionary in your target language.